

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 1 has been amended to improve form. Accordingly, claims 1-6 and 8-13 are pending. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 1-6 and 8-13 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 1-6 and 8-13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication 2004/0018774 to Long et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Long") in view of U.S. Patent 4,025,139 issued to Martucci. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Long and Martucci taken alone or in combination do not disclose, teach or suggest at least,

"a power supplying jack provided at an end of the DC power cable and connected to one of the first connection port of the computer main body and the second connection port of the docking station to supply DC power therethrough;

a grounding cable branched off from the DC power cable and forming a grounding path; and

a grounding jack provided at an end of the grounding cable and connected to the other one of the first connection port of the computer main body and the second connection port of the docking station to connect the grounding cable and one of grounding areas of the computer main body and the docking station to each other,

wherein the connector receives and sends data and DC power between the docking station and the computer main body"

as recited in claim 1.

In item 2, the Office Action notes,

"With respect to claim 1, ... Long does not disclose a second cable branched off from the power supply cable with a jack at one end, or explicitly teach that a data connection exists between the docking station tray and computer. However, it is inherent that in order for the computer to function with the docking station, a data connection must exist between the two devices. A data connection between a computer and peripheral device (such as a docking station) transmits digital data, which is inherently DC power. Martucci teaches... a power supply cable (1) with a grounding cable (4) branched off and ending in a grounding jack (19). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine the AC/DC adapter system of Long with the auxiliary

grounding wire of Martucci to obtain an AC/DC adapter capable of electrically connecting to both the computer and docking station where one device would receive electrical power and both would be directly connected to the ground plane of the AC/DC adapter for the benefit of an auxiliary ground path better protecting the two devices from transients.”

Applicant respectfully traverses this assertion. As noted in the Office Action, Long does not disclose a second cable (grounding cable) connected to the power cable (DC power cable), or explicitly teach that a data connection exists between the docking tray (station) and computer.

Applicant respectfully submits that Martucci's power supply cable does not transmit data. In addition, the connection port 126' of Long's notebook computer (Figures 8 and 14) only receives power. Long does not disclose receiving data through connection port 126'.

Further, although a digital signal may have specific voltages representing zeros and ones, a connector sending both DC power and data is not inherent. Long does not teach the use of the connector to supply both power and data. Long may be transmitting data using a communication link, which is different from a connector supplying both power and data. In addition, Martucci does not even discuss the transmission of digital data. Accordingly, Long and Martucci do not even recognize one of the problems solved by the present invention, i.e. reduction of electromagnetic interference.

Moreover, in column 1, lines 5-32, Martucci indicates that (1) the interruption of electrical power to devices needed by a patient in a hospital room is unacceptable, and (2) the loss of any grounding circuit due to a defective plug, receptacle, cable, connection, etc., could endanger the life of the patient. Therefore, Martucci addresses the problem by disclosing a redundant electrical grounding system for one electrical appliance.

Martucci does not disclose, teach, or suggest that a ground conductor 4 should be connected to one electrical appliance and that the ground conductor 5 should be connected to another electrical appliance. If the ground conductor 4 of Martucci was connected to a motorized bed (one electrical appliance) and the ground conductor 5 of Martucci was connected to an electrocardiogram (another electrical appliance), then Martucci would no longer teach a redundant electrical grounding system. The Office Action's characterization of Martucci defeats Martucci's proposed solution to the problem of delivering uninterrupted power to electrical devices in a hospital room without risking the life of the patient.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Long and Martucci, taken alone or in combination, do not disclose, teach or suggest at least “a power supplying jack . . . connected to

one of . . . the computer main body and . . . the docking station . . .” and “a grounding jack . . . connected to the other one of . . . the computer main body and . . . the docking station,” because Long does not disclose a second cable, and Martucci’s ground conductors 4 and 5 are connected to the same electrical appliance.

Therefore, for at least all of the above reasons, claim 1 is patentably distinguishable from the cited references.

Claim 2 depends directly from claim 1 and includes all of the features of that claim plus additional features which are not taught or suggested by the reference. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 2 also patentably distinguishes over the cited reference.

Similarly, Long and Martucci taken alone or in combination do not disclose, teach or suggest at least, “wherein the docking station and the portable device are electrically connected through a connector, and wherein the connector receives and sends data and DC power between the docking station and the portable device,” as recited in independent claim 3.

Also similarly, Long and Martucci taken alone or in combination do not disclose, teach or suggest at least, “wherein the power supplying jack is connectable to one of the portable device and the docking station, and the grounding jack is connectable to the other one of the portable device and docking station to supply a ground path other than through the power supplying jack,” as recited in independent claim 3.

Therefore, for at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 3 also patentably distinguishes over the cited references.

Claims 4-6 and 8 depend directly or indirectly from claim 3 and include all of the features of that claim plus additional features which are not taught or suggested by the cited references. Therefore, for at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 4-6 and 8 also patentably distinguish over the cited references.

Similarly, Long and Martucci taken alone or in combination do not disclose, teach or suggest at least, “wherein the first and second electrical devices are electrically connected through a connector, and wherein the connector receives and sends data and DC power between the first and second electrical devices,” as recited in claim 9.

Also similarly, Long and Martucci taken alone or in combination do not disclose, teach or suggest at least, “wherein the power supplying jack is for connecting to the first electrical device and the grounding jack is for connecting to the second electrical device,” as recited in claim 9. Therefore, for at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 9 also patentably

distinguishes over the cited references.

Claims 10-13 depend directly or indirectly from claim 9 and include all the features of that claim plus additional features which are not taught or suggested by the cited references. Therefore, for at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 10-13 also patentably distinguish over the cited references.

Summary

Claims 1-6 and 8-13 are pending and under consideration. It is respectfully submitted that none of the references taken alone or in combination disclose the present claimed invention.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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